

IN THE CLAIMS: ✓

Please cancel claim 1 and substitute for corresponding pending claims 2 to 10 inclusive the claims as shown rewritten below with amendments effected therein. Appendix I is attached hereto having marked versions of said claims with amendments indicated by brackets and underlining.

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2. (Amended) An energy consumption efficiency improving agent comprising a mixture of a flexible polymer binder and a solution-forming agent, which is applied to an object in the form of a thin film having a viscosity of 100,000 cp or less and a thickness of 10 μm or less.

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3. (Amended) The energy consumption efficiency improving agent according to claim 2, wherein said flexible polymer binder adheres to an organic material and an inorganic material and has a viscosity of 100,000 cp or less, and said solution-forming agent is present in an amount resulting in the viscosity of the mixture being 100 cp or less.

4. (Amended) The energy consumption efficiency improving agent according to claim 2, further comprising an antislipping agent comprising fine particles of an average particle diameter of 10 μm or less.

5. (Amended) The energy consumption efficiency improving agent according to claim 2, wherein a base material of the polymer binder is at least one selected from the group consisting of polyethylene; a methyl, phenyl, chloro, hydroxy, acetoxy, or cyano derivative of polyethylene; polybutadiene, a methyl or chloro derivative of polybutadiene; a copolymer of said polyethylene derivative and said butadiene derivative; silicone; polysulfide; and polyurethane.

6. (Amended) The energy consumption efficiency improving agent according to claim 2, wherein a base material of the polymer binder is at least one selected from the group consisting of silicone; polysulfide; polyurethane; modified epoxy resin; and modified acrylic resin which are generated by condensation action of an external substance during adhesion.

7. (Amended) The energy consumption efficiency improving agent according to claim 2 wherein the solution-forming agent is a solvent which is capable of diluting the binder, including a solvent which dilutes the binder by colloid formation.

8. (Amended) The energy consumption efficiency improving agent according to claim 4, wherein the antislipping agent is a finely particulate inorganic material mainly comprised of silicon oxide, aluminum oxide, cerium oxide, or silicon carbide, or a finely particulate organic material.

9. (Amended) An energy consumption efficiency improving method, comprising applying the energy consumption efficiency improving agent as set forth in any one of claims 2 to 8 to an object to form a thin film of 10 μm or less on a surface of the object.

10. (Amended) An article improved in energy consumption efficiency having a contact surface to be brought into contact with a surface of a support, and a thin film formed on the contact surface by application of the energy consumption efficiency improving agent as set forth in any one of claims 2 to 8, the film having a thickness of 10 μm or less.

Please add claims 12 to 27 as follows:

12. The energy consumption efficiency improving agent of claim 2 wherein said mixture contains 1.42 to 1.58 wt. % of said flexible polymer binder and 94.81 to 98.5 wt. % of said solution-forming agent.

13. The energy consumption efficiency improving agent of claim 4 wherein said mixture contains 0 to 3.77 wt. % of said antislipping agent.

14. The energy consumption efficiency improving agent of claim 2 wherein the viscosity of said thin film is 10,000 to 100,000 cp.

15. The agent of claim 14 wherein said viscosity is 10,000 to 50,000 cp.

16. The agent of claim 15 wherein said viscosity is 10,000 to 20,000 cp.

17. The energy consumption efficiency improving agent of claim 2 wherein said film has a thickness of 0.01 to 10 μm .

18. The agent of claim 17 wherein said thickness is 0.01 to 1 μm .

19. The agent of claim 18 wherein said thickness is 0.01 to 0.1 μm .
20. The energy consumption efficiency improving agent of claim 3 wherein the viscosity of said mixture due to the presence of said solution-forming agent is 20 to 100 cp.
21. The agent of claim 20 wherein said viscosity is 20 to 50 cp.
22. The agent of claim 21 wherein said viscosity is 20 to 35 cp.
23. The energy consumption efficiency improving agent of claim 4 wherein said average particle diameter is 10 nm to 10 μm .
24. The agent of claim 23 wherein said diameter is 10 nm to 1 μm .
25. The agent of claim 24 wherein said diameter is 10 to 100 nm.
26. The energy consumption efficiency improving agent of claim 6 wherein said external substance is water.